

REMARKS

Claims pending in the instant application are numbered 1-26. Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-11, 15, 16, 19 and 24-26 are rejected. Claims 3, 7, 12-14, 17, 18 and 20-23 are objected to.

The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the amendments and the following remarks.

35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103 Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 5, 8, 10 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Masato, JP-2000-134061. Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Philliber, US 6,794,958.

Claims 4, 6, 9, 11 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Masato in view of Philliber. Claims 24-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's prior art Figure 1 in view of Masato.

Independent claims 1, 10, 15, 19 and 24 have been amended to include allowable subject identified by the Examiner. Claims 2, 4-9, 11, 12, 14, 18, 21-23 and 25-26 properly depend from allowable independent claims and thus are allowable. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the instant § 102 and § 103 rejections.

Conclusion

The Applicant submits that in view of the remarks and amendments set forth herein, all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to issue a Notice of Allowance in this case.

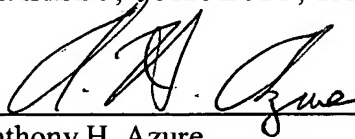
Charge Deposit Account

Please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any additional fee(s) that may be due in this matter, and please credit the same deposit account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN

Date: Feb. 10, 2005



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